

INFORMATION REPORT

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23 October 1953

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REQUIREMENT NO.

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REFERENCES

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1. The Chinese Communist port authorities at Tientsin exercise very strict control over seamen arriving on ships from Hong Kong.¹ The men are searched and questioned by both customs officials and police before they are permitted to land, and they must state their exact destination in Tientsin. They are then told what routes they may take to arrive at their destination, and they are liable to prison sentences if they do not follow the orders of the police.
2. Upon landing seamen must exchange all of their foreign currency for JMP, all of which must be spent before their departure. Because of the many inconveniences involved in going ashore, many crew members do not leave their ship.
3. The port of Chingwangtao has become very quiet, but there are troops stationed nearby along the coast.
4. There has been some relaxation of controls on the movement of persons in Tientsin, and business conditions have improved slightly in the past few weeks. This is particularly noticeable in the case of restaurants and places of amusement. Most of the export firms in Tientsin are state-controlled,² and the government controls the trade in medicinal herbs, wool, tea, and beans. Cargoes being brought to Tientsin from Hong Kong at the present comprise medicine and surgical instruments.

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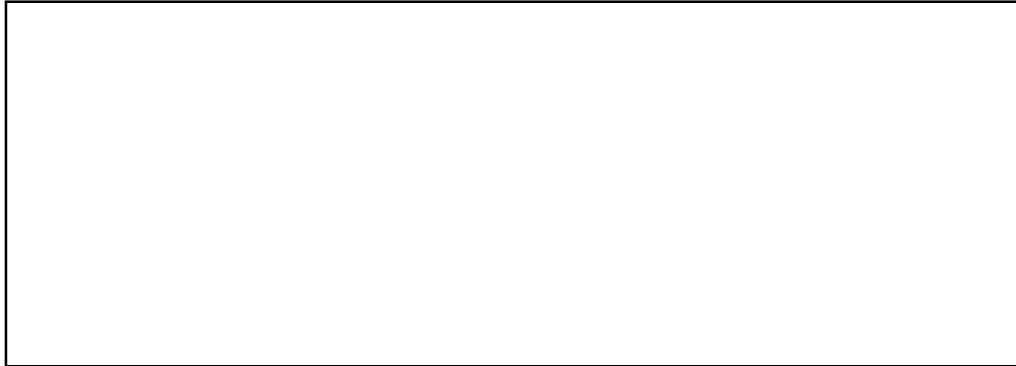
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